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ABSTRACT

Elementary and secondary school teachers interested in developing a local history unit can adapt this fourth grade program created for three school districts in Cortland County, New York. Material is divided into 13 chapters. Chapter 1 charts the New York fourth grade curriculum by concept and content and outlines specific community study activities integrated into the curriculum. Chapters 2 through 9 contain individual maps and histories of each of the four locales studied in the unit: Cortland County, Cincinnatus, Homer, and McGraw. Chapters 10-13 consist of indexes of local history topics, resource persons, historians, and sites for these four areas. An appendix contains Cortland County Historical Society resources, materials prices, and educational services. (LP)

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Social Studies

Local History

1983

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A Summer Curriculum Project, Sponsored by:

Cortland - Madison BOCES

Preface

The major purpose of this booklet is to provide the classroom teacher with general information about the local history of three locales, Cincinnatus, Homer and McGraw and resource people that may be contacted to provide in-depth studies of these three communities.

Although the booklet is geared toward the fourth grade curriculum it may be used by junior and senior high teachers.

Also included in the booklet are names of instructional resources which the teacher may want to use for a field trip experience.

This Local History booklet was produced as a result of a summer curriculum development project, sponsored by the Cortland-Madison BOCES. The booklet was developed by the following individuals:

Joe Kressler, Coordinator	Cincinnatus
Joann Holbomb	Cincinnatus
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Lillian Craig	Homer
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CONCEPTS	SOCIAL CONTENT UNDERSTANDINGS	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
Change • universal • continuous • influenced by many factors	Families in the local community change over time. • roles • rules • members, relationships • homes • ways of living • customs • language •	Students could design and distribute a questionnaire to assess in what ways families change over time. Survey questions could be developed, tested, and refined by students themselves. Data analysis uses math skills. Consider computer use. Students could use oral history data gathering techniques to compile case studies of local families and how they have changed over time. Visual and performing arts presentations could be employed to interpret and share information. Case studies of local families could be shared with others through: • bound books in the school or local library • videotape presentations • student-written local newspaper articles. Students might investigate the languages spoken in the local community in addition to English and trace the roots of those languages.

TABLE SKILLS/ATTITUDES

Getting Information

- using a survey as a source of information
- differentiating between relevant and irrelevant information
- understanding the purposes for which information is to be used

Using Information

- drawing inferences from data
- identifying relationships
- checking on hypotheses using mathematical devices to analyze data

Self-Management

- developing constructive attitudes toward diversity
- developing constructive attitudes toward change

EVALUATION

Knowledge

- Can the student recognize ways families in the local community change?

Skill

- Can the student use a survey to gather data, drawing inferences from the data?
- Can the student accept diversity and change as inevitable and natural?

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Ancona, George. Growing Older. E. P. Dutton, 1976.

Baldwin, Anne. A Little Time. Viking Press, 1978.

Brady, Esther Wood. The Toad on Capitol Hill. Crown Publishers, 1978.

Blue, Rose. Grandma Didn't Wave Back. Franklin Watts, Inc., 1972.

Burch, Robert. Two That Were Tough. Viking Press, 1976.

TEACHER REFERENCES

Neuenschwander, John A. Oral History as a Teaching Approach. Washington, DC: National Education Association, 1976.

Vento, Carla J. Of Time and Value. Buffalo, NY: D.O.K. Publishers, 1980.

PARTICIPATION PROJECTS (See Teacher Notebook)

"Who's Who in Our Community: Past/Present"

"Personal Time Line"

CONCEPTS	SOCIAL CONTENT UNDERSTANDINGS	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
Change • universal • growth • decline • assimilation • accommodation	Places in your community change. Schools change. • population - number of students can be charted to examine change • use of space - classrooms - special facilities - times in use • staff/faculty • curriculum and instructional materials • building itself/size, condition • funding/sources, amounts, restrictions, regulations • leaders in the school and school community • special services • •	Students could conduct interviews with former and present school personnel. Students could chart, diagram, and/or display data using it as a resource for analysis. Charts and graphs can reinforce math skills in a relevant context. Students might collect old school floor plans, pictures, yearbooks, and newspapers to use in reporting on changes in their schools. These items could be used to develop a school time line. Students could investigate the changes in the community to accommodate such things as automobiles, bicycles, fast-food establishments, and handicapped-access facilities.

POSSIBLE SKILLS/ATTITUDES

Getting Information

- using primary and secondary sources

Using Information

- classifying relevant information
- identifying differences and similarities in data

Presenting Information

- constructing charts, graphs, and tables to communicate ideas

Self-Management

- developing constructive attitudes toward change

EVALUATION

Knowledge

- Can the student identify specific ways that a school changes?

Skill

- Can the student use primary and secondary sources to gather data?
- Can the student evidence growing capacity to recognize the ramifications of change?

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Bailey, Bernadine. Picture Book of New York. Albert Whitman & Company, 1968.

Peck, Robert Newton. Mr. Little. Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1979.

Sloane, Eric. The Little Red Schoolhouse. Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1973.

PARTICIPATION PROJECT

"The Old Photo Album Time Line"

CONCEPTS	SOCIAL CONTENT UNDERSTANDINGS	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
Culture • institution (education) • preserved • transmitted • learned	Ways of learning in your local community have changed over time and have varied from place to place in our country. • colonial times • pre-industrial America • American frontier • industrial America • rural, urban, or suburban America • • TN Local museums or historical groups may be able to simulate classrooms in the past, working with students and objects from their collections.	Student groups might gather information about schooling and socialization practices in different time periods. Students might classify their information in terms of how students learned, what they learned, and the institutions or agencies responsible for teaching American youth. They could use their charts to develop investigative, informative writing. A study of old textbooks and children's stories might be an interesting way to link literature and social studies. As the world becomes increasingly globally interdependent there is a need to learn more about others. Students could brainstorm global goals such as "Enough food for all." Then for each goal, brainstorm things we might need to learn to achieve that goal.

POSSIBLE SKILLS/ATTITUDES	UATION	RESOURCES
Getting Information • locating information from a variety of printed sources • identifying information pertaining to a topic and relevant subquestion Using Information • creating broad statements encompassing research Presenting Information • using an acceptable format • participating in group relations • being a responsible group member Self-Management • developing constructive attitudes toward change • developing constructive attitudes toward diversity	Knowledge • Can the student identify specific ways of learning that have changed over time? Skill • Can the student research a topic in order to summarize main findings in written form? • Can the student participate in group planning? • Can the student show a growing capacity to promote desirable change and accept diversity as inevitable and natural?	BOOKS Burch, Robert. Hut School and the Wartime Home – Front Heroes. Viking Press, 1974. Choice Pages From Early American School Books. Americana Review, 10 Socha Lane, Scotia, NY 12302. Gemming, Elizabeth. Huckleberry Hill. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1968. Lenski, Lois. Prarie School. Lippincott, 1951. Pictures and Stories From Forgotten Children's Books. Dover Press, 180 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014. Tunis, Edwin. The Young United States, 1785 to 1830. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1976. AUDIOVISUALS Growing Up in America. Society for Visual Education. Filmstrips, cassettes, activity masters.

CONCEPTS	SOCIAL CONTENT UNDERSTANDINGS	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
Culture • diversity Empathy • awareness • cultural understanding • trust/confidence • appreciation	A community has a unique social/ cultural makeup and heritage. • There is diversity within most communities in areas such as: - family types - religion - ethnic heritage - language - age, race, sex - socio-economic levels • Communities share some common traditions - food - celebrations - recreation/leisure pursuits • Some customs change, others remain the same. •	Student groups might identify the different ethnic and cultural grou which live in their neighborhood, community, or city. Students can trace the historical development o various groups using primary sourc research, oral history techniques, and role play. Students might construct local community maps wh show where groups of people have settled. They might use time lin to trace settlement. Students might display these maps and time lines in local libraries schools, or civic centers. Murals could be prepared illustratir the researched information.

POSSIBLE SKILLS/ATTITUDES

Getting Information

- locating information using a variety of print and nonprint sources

Using Information

- categorizing and classifying data
- placing ideas in chronological order
- generalizing from data

Presenting Information

- using media to communicate ideas preparing appropriate commentary

Self-Management

- developing constructive attitudes toward diversity
- increasing the ability to empathize

EVALUATION

Knowledge

- Can the student cite examples of the diversity within a community?
- Can the student identify common traditions in a community?

Skill

- Can the student locate relevant data, categorize the data, and present the data in display form?
- Can the student evidence a growing capacity to describe the thoughts and feelings of others?

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Ferretti, Fred. The Great American Book of Games. Workman Publishing Company, 1975.

Fiarotta, Phyllis and Noel. The You and Me Heritage Tree: Ethnic Crafts for Children. Workman Publishing Company, 1976.

Martin, Bill Jr. and Bernard J. Weiss. Sounds of Our Heritage Series: From the Mid-Atlantic and From the Great Lakes. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., 1981.

TEACHER REFERENCES

Knapp, Mary and Herbert. One Potato, Two Potato: The Folklore of American Children. W. W. Norton & Co., 19[illegible]

Wigginton, Eliot. Foxfire series. Anchor Books.

Exploring New York's Past. New York State Office of Parks and Recreation.

AUDIOVISUALS

Keeper of the Western Door. Bureau of Educational Communication. State Education Department. Videotapes which describe the history and life of the Seneca nation.

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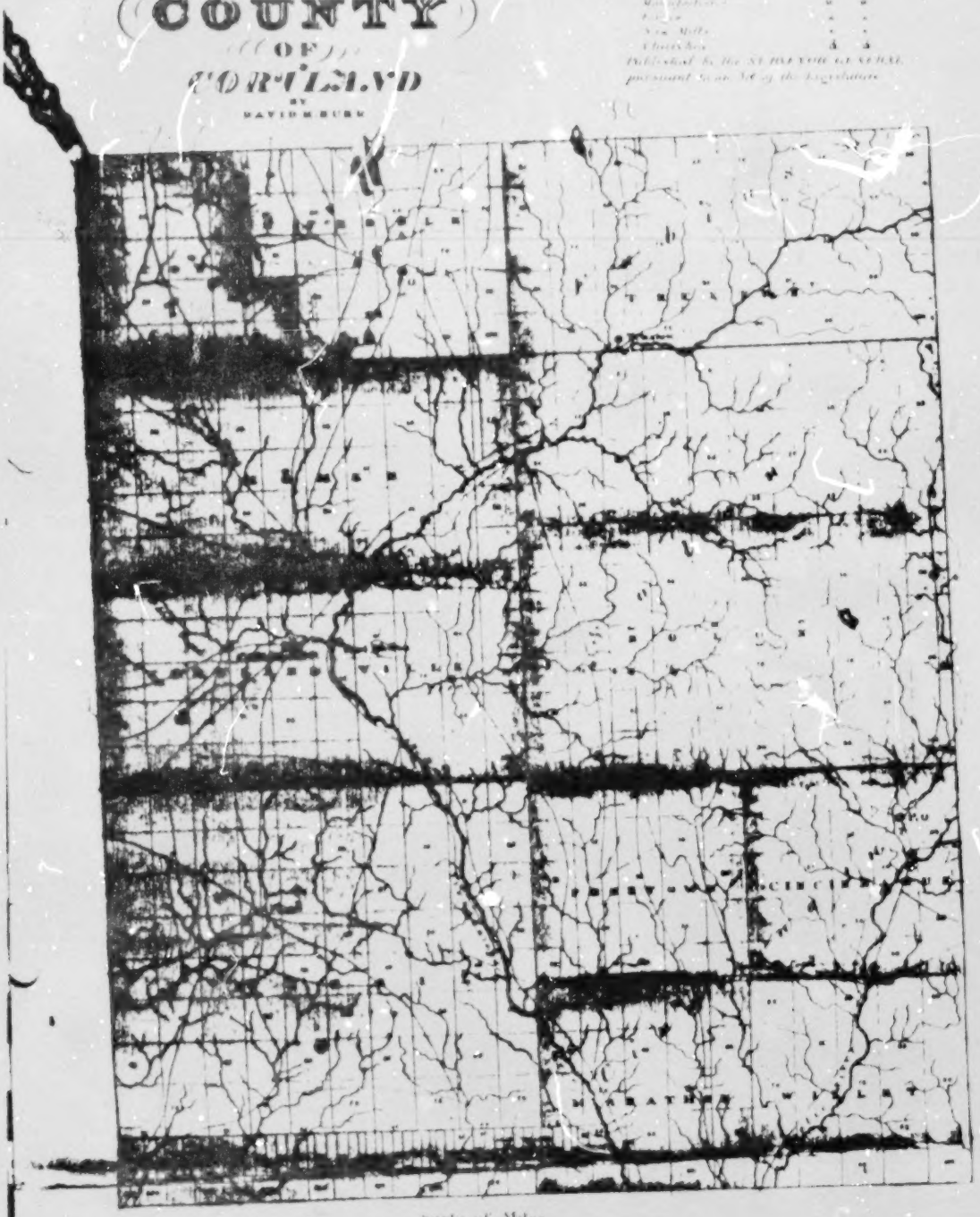
MAP
OF THE
COUNTY
OF
PORTLAND

BY

DAVID H. BURR

EXPLANATIONS



Scale of Miles

Longitude East from Washington

Engd by Hawley Cheek & Co Albany & Hamilton Wright

Cortland County

Cortland County is located in the glaciated Appalachian Plateau area of central New York midway between Syracuse and Binghamton. This predominately rural county is the southeastern gateway to the Finger Lakes region.

Scattered archaeological evidence indicates occupation of the county by three different aboriginal cultures, mainly the Iroquois (Onondaga) beginning about 1500 A.D.

What was to become Cortland County remained Indian territory until after the American Revolution and was included within the Military Tract. This was an area of more than one and one-half million acres set aside by the State's Legislature to compensate Revolutionary War veterans for their war time services. To encourage settlement in the upstate isolated wilderness, New York State constructed a road from Oxford through Cortland County to Cayuga Lake in 1792-94. This, and construction of privately financed roads, were the major impetus to settlement.

Eastern New Yorkers and New Englanders, wanting new agricultural land, welcomed the opening of this new frontier. The first white settlement in the county was made in 1791 by Amos Todd, Joseph Beebe and Rhoda Todd Beebe, emigres from Connecticut who paddled up the Tioughnioga River to settle near the head of navigation in the Town of Homer. Following them came a flood of settlers who, in 1808, petitioned the State's Legislature for county status. Thus, Cortland County was created from southern half of Onondaga County on April 8, 1808 and was named in honor of General Pierre Van Cortlandt, first lieutenant governor of the state and owner of lands in the Military Tract.

The settlers, with help of their axes, and their entire families transformed this heavily wooded region into tillable acres supporting mixed crop agriculture. They grew wheat, corn and potatoes, cut hay for their livestock and made small quantities of maple products. Potash from wood ash was their first cash crop.

Along the Tioughnioga River at Port Watson, now included within the Cortland city limits, was a port where between about 1800 and 1840 "arks" loaded with products floated down river on the high waters of spring to Harrisburg and Baltimore.

With the opening of the Erie Canal river shipping declined. The canal and shortly the railroads began hauling cheap western grains which eventually competed with those of local farmers. As more land was cleared, acreage devoted to animal husbandry greatly increased. Here the soils and climate produced lush pastures and abundant hay crops suitable for the raising of cattle and sheep. By 1845 dairying was well established with most milk being made into butter and cheese and shipped out to eastern markets. Shipments of livestock to eastern markets began in the early 19th century.

Between 1830 and 1860 most of the towns of the county reached their highest populations. Beginning about 1870 most rural town populations declined as farm boys were attracted by city opportunities and farmers left for city jobs or answered the call of new lands in the West.

The county's industrial history goes back to 1798 when the first grist mill in the county was established in the Town of Homer. Clearing of forests gave rise to saw mills, asheries, and tanneries. In the major communities could be found distilleries, carding mills, cooperages, carriage and harness makers, an ink factory in Homer and a shoe peg factory at Little York, cabinetmakers shops, gunsmiths, blacksmiths, tinsmiths - just to name a few that have joined the passing parade.

With the coming of the railroad in 1854 and a second line in 1871, Cortland area industries were assured of easier access to raw materials, fuel, and new markets. The establishment in Cortland Village of two national banks and a savings bank provided a broader credit base. These factors, coupled with the nation-wide demand for more goods, spurred some imaginative young men of the village to transform their small shop enterprises into the county's first large-scale factories. Taking the lead was the Cortland Wagon Co. which became the largest and best known of a dozen or more firms making horse-drawn vehicles or accessories. After a meteoric rise with impressive production figures, the firm quietly succumbed - victim of the automobile.

Wickwire Brothers turned from the hardware business to the manufacture of wire cloth, drawn wire and nails, fencing and even steel for making these products. Although the area's largest employer during most of the 20th century, the firm was forced by competition to close in 1971 - victim of the times.

The county has become a melting pot of nationalities. The first settlers were primarily of English and Dutch descent, but most had been born in America. As the Cortland area industrialized, large number of Italians began arriving in the 1890's because of work opportunities with better pay at Wickwires and other factories than they could get in New York City. Russians, Poles, Greeks and Lebanese also arrived between about 1890 and 1920.

Asian immigrants, among whose are several practicing physicians, arrived here in the late 1960's and 1970's. Africans in very small numbers have been in the County since the early 1790's. Since 1900 the County's population has steadily increased and during the last two decades there has been a notable shift from urban to rural non-farm living.

The County's present reflects its past. Economically, agriculture countinues to be important. Silage corn, oats and hay occupy most of the cultivated acreage and are used as dairy feed. Milk is shipped out in fluid form rather than as butter and cheese. Agribusiness flourishes: feed stores, machinery dealers and veterinarians serve Cortland and surrounding counties. Farm woodlots still account for a sizeable production of maple products. Consistent with the pattern elsewhere in New York State, the number of farms has declined while acreage per farm and yield per acre has increased.

The diversified pattern of industry also continues. Most of the large industries have become subsidiaries of large corporations of national reputation rather than being owned and managed by local families. Led by the giant SCM (typewriters and other business machines) the County is important for canoes, boats, tennis rackets and fish line: electrical, industrial and marine hardware; termowells and industrial filters; burial vaults; machine tools; drilling and tapping machines; overhead doors; foundation garments; paper and wooden boxes; an electrical testing laboratory; telephone re-conditioning and rebuilding of electrical transformers.

The economy is further bolstered by the lumber industry and sand and gravel quarrying.

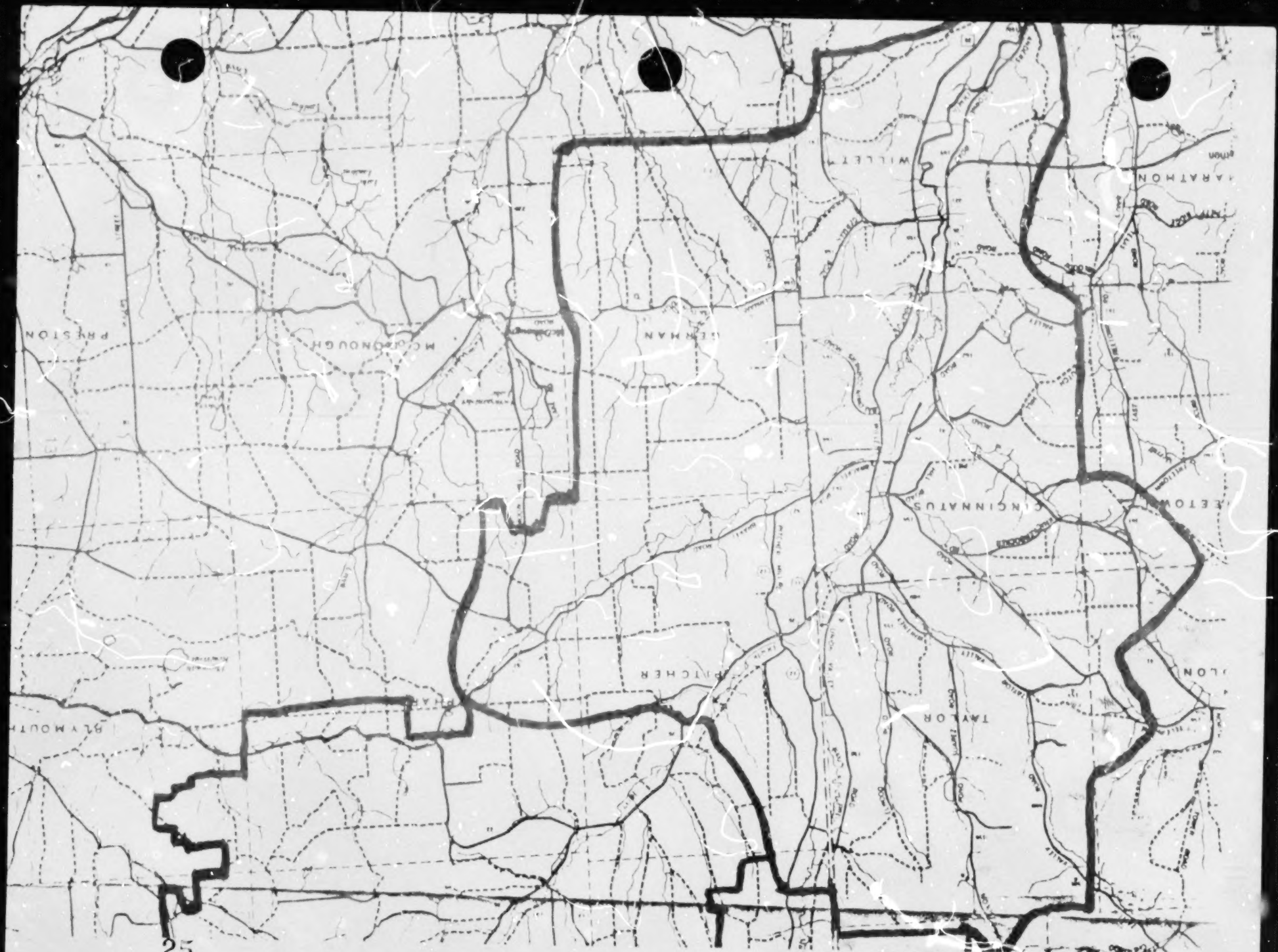
State University College at Cortland has grown from a two-year normal school teacher training institute (1869) to a four-year program of study leading to the bachelor's degree and to master's degree in certain disciplines.

Cortland County shares funding of Tompkins Cortland Community College. Recreation figures large in the planning and economy of the County, which devotes about 13.8% of its land and water acreage to year-round recreation. Woodlands, streams and lakes attract hunters, fishermen, campers, hikers and water sports enthusiasts. Equestrian activities, golf courses and swimming facilities are important.

In winter, skiing is the helm with three major ski centers located here. Greek Peak at Virgil, the largest in Central New York, is developing into a year- ound facility. Open area ice-skating, ice fishing and snow mobiling and the indoor ice arena at SUNY Cortland offer varied facilities for varied tastes.

While no event of national import has occurred here, the County has contributed leaders to all walks of life and continues as a county proud of its history and one whose major assest of dairy farming diversified manufacturing, education and recreation facilities, and a good transportation network contribute to a sound and stable economy.

Shirley G. Heppel
Cortland County Historian



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Cincinnatus

Cincinnatus, being a classic name, is one of the original settlements of the Military Tract. The present townships of Cincinnatus, Freetown, Marathon, and Willet were parts of this original tract.

Ebenezer Crittenden was the first pioneer settler to settle in this region just north of the Willet-Cincinnatus line in 1784. Col. John Kingman, Thomas and Ezra Rockwell were the first settlers to arrive after the organization of the Military Tract. They came from Lennox, Massachusetts in 1794. They settled on land that is about from the Otselic River to the present Main Street.

Lower Cincinnatus was also settled around 1795. It was originally called McWhorter's Corners after Dr. John McWhorter, who settled there with others from Unadilla and Oxford.

According to historical records, Col. John Kingman did more than anyone toward developing the village. On the north and south corners of Main Street, Kingman ran a tavern and store.

The local area was heavily forested. The first occupation of the pioneers, after building a home, was clearing the land for farming. Some early manufacturing was maple sugar and whiskey, which was sold and some was used locally. Some game was used for food and some was hunted and trapped for furs.

A tannery business was conducted in Lower Village and there was one in the upper village on Holmes Brook. There was also a gunsmith, shoemaker, and tailor. The making of furniture, wagons, sleighs, and harnesses were also locally made.

Cincinnatus had a railroad, a milk plant, cheese factories, blacksmiths, a locksmith and hat factory. There were asheries, grist mills, and a brick kiln.

Cincinnatus is also the Birthplace of Elmer Sperry who had over 400 patents and invented the gyroscope which was very important in aviation and sailing.

Taylor

The first settlers of Taylor were Zerah Beebe, a Revolutionary soldier, his son Latus Beebe, and his son-in-law, John Tinker. They came from Waterbury, Connecticut in 1794. Taylor was then in the township of Homer, Onondaga County.

In 1830 a saw mill and grist mill were built on the river east of Taylor village. In 1920 an electric plant was put in Taylor, Cincinnatus and Pitcher. In 1925 it was sold to Binghamton Light Company and soon the mill closed.

Potter Hill in the east-central part of town was settled by Potters, from Danube, Herkimer County in 1817. Potter Hill is now abandoned, leaving a cemetery of 240 burials.

Solon Pond was damed for mill power in 1833. The water power was used for a saw mill, grist mill, and other machinery.

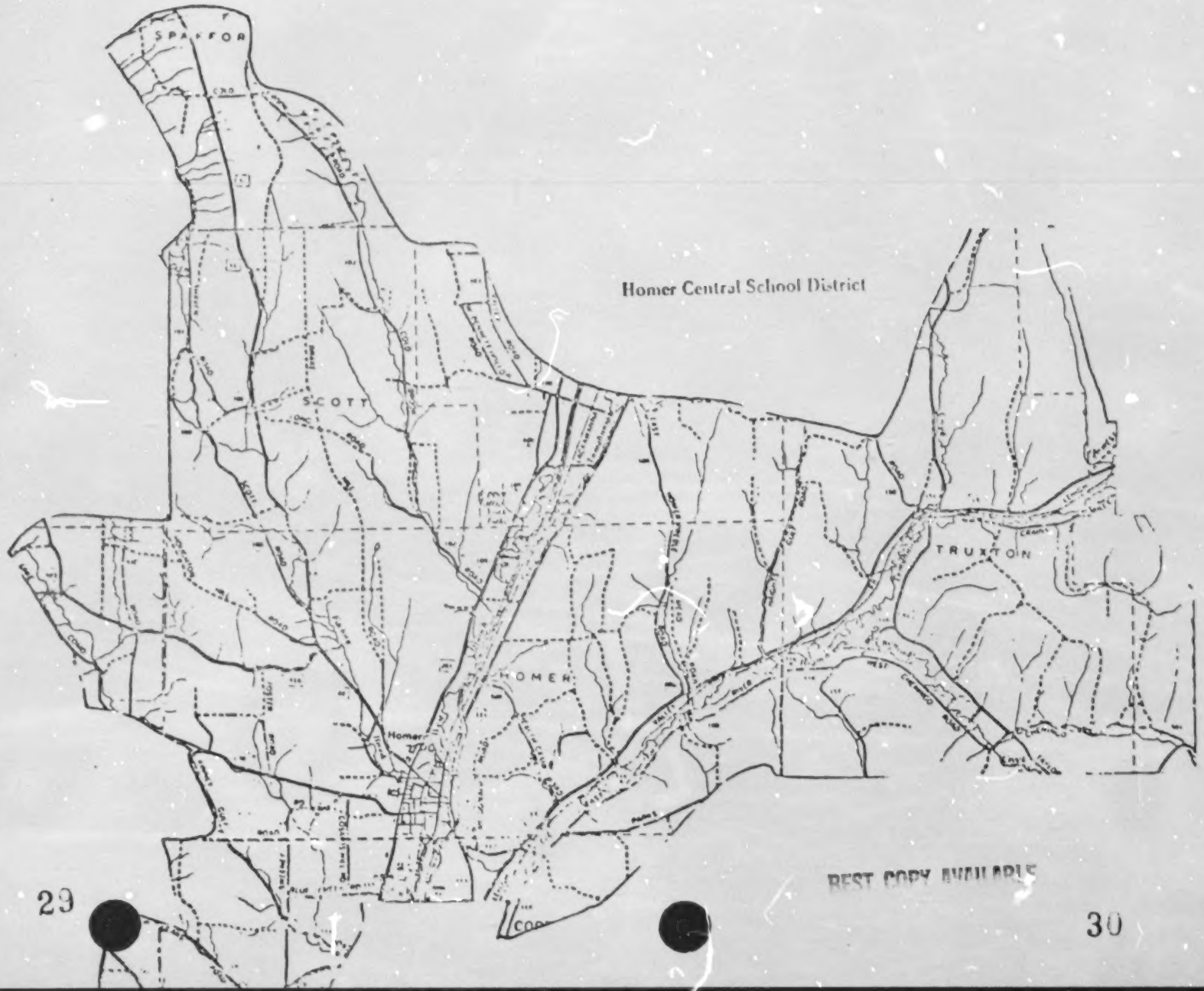
Willet

The town of Willet was named in honor of Col. Marinus Willett, a renown soldier of the battle of Fort Stanwix.

Ebenezer Crittenden was the first settler. His family came up the Otselic River with paddle and pushpole about 1800.

The first grist and saw mill was built by Benjamin Wilson in 1807 and in 1808 he built a clothing mill and did a large business in the manufacture of homespun cloth. The first store was opened by John S. Dyer. Wilson opened a Public House in 1808. Two years later he built a blacksmith shop. The first schoolhouse was built in 1814.

The businesses of about 85 years ago included four general stores, one large hardware store, one shoe store, one furniture factory, a planing mill and general wood repair store, saw mills, creameries, two blacksmith shops and two hotels.



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Settled in 1791, Homer was part of that tract of land numbering over 1½ million acres, that was given to Revolutionary War veterans and to enlisted members of the State Militia in 1782, as payment for their wartime services. Many veterans sold their tracts to others, but in 1791, Joseph and Rhoda Beebe and Amos Todd arrived in the area and became the first settlers, building a log cabin near what is now Hooker Avenue.

The land proved fertile and others followed and in only two years, 1793, six families, feeling the need for religious guidance, organized the first services. Ministers of that day "rode the circuit" on horseback, preaching to the gathered, baptizing new babies, marrying young couples, and conducting funeral services for those who died since the last trip. In 1799, these six families incorporated themselves to form the First Religious Society of Homer which was a dominant factor in the early years of the village, and still is active and flourishing to this day. When the village was settled, certain tracts of land were set aside for church and school, and the Village Green has always belonged to the First Religious Society, being acquired by the group in 1805.

Early settlers in the community were strongly influenced by their belief in God and education for their children, and in 1795, the first "common school" was built on Hooker Avenue, north and outside of the village.

Even though early transportation was difficult at best, the river being the cheapest and most reliable means, the community continued to grow, and in 1797, the east-west Albany Post Road was laid out, passing through Truxton, over east hill, down Albany Street and on to Cayuga Street and westward.

1798 saw the first grist mill being built and, as there was not yet a church building, the mill was used for church services whenever it was not too cold.

Continued growth demanded a second school, and before 1800, actually in 1799, the first school building on the Village Green was built by the First Religious Society. It, too, was utilized for church services.

By 1800, there were six frame houses in the Town of Homer, and one of those, built in 1799 by Asa White, is still standing and is being occupied as a residence. It is located at 20 Clinton Street where it was moved from Main Street about 1826. Soon "real" churches were being built on the Green, the Congregational Church (not the present building) being first in 1805 followed by the Baptist Church in 1826; the Methodist Church, remodeled from the 1808 school in 1835; Cortland Academy in 1825, and the Episcopal Church in 1832. Of these buildings, the only one remaining is the Episcopal Church, the white church located on the north side of the Green and the Homer Elementary School.

In 1811, Jedediah Barber moved to Homer from Connecticut and the following year, opened the Great Western Store, which has been described as the "most important county mercantile established in New York State." Here you could purchase almost anything from a large and varied supply, including "Blue" china, many pieces of which still exist in private collections today, marked with the Great Western Store emblem on the back.

Homer has had its shore of famous people, and its women can point with pride to Amelia Jenks Bloomer who was born in 1818. She not only invented "bloomers," a kind of full, outer garment, designed to replace skirts and made in the form of pants, but for six years she was the publisher of The Lily, a newspaper printed in Seneca Falls, "devoted to the interests of women." This was possibly the first paper of any kind published by a woman."

Another famous (or infamous) Homerite was David Harum, immortialized by Edward Noyes in his book, David Harum, horse trader par excellence, and entrepreneur of some questionable enterprises, including the "Cardiff Giant." Supposedly discovered buried in a site near Cardiff, Harum and others promoted this great stone figure in sideshows throughout the area, exhibiting it under a tent and reaping great sums from the gullible!

Quite a contrast in personalities is represented by two other famous Homer residents: Francis B. Carpenter, born in 1830, who was to become the painter of four presidents of the United States (his painting, the "Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation" now hands in the nation's capital in Washington), and Andrew D. White, born in 1832, who was the first president of Cornell University, and later became United States Ambassador to Germany.

Another famous Homerite was William O. Stoddard who was one of President Lincoln's secretaries and biographers, and author of stories for children.

1820-1830 was a boom period in the town with four stagecoaches passing through daily, and hotels and taverns flourished. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, was a great spur in trade. Although taverns flourished in the village, the other extreme was represented by the religious community which was said to be "stricter in its customs and habits of thought than New England" in the 1840's and 1850's. Cortland Academy, run by the First Religious Society, was a potent force in the community, preparing young men for the vocations, and in particular, for the ministry.

In 1849-1851, a plank road was built between Cortland to the south and Syracuse to the north, running along Homer's Main Street, and the time of the stage run was reduced to six hours!

In 1853, Jedediah Barber, already a prominent businessman in the community, built a bank at 1 North Main Street to assist his interest in the projected railroad. This building continues to be one of the most interesting commercial buildings in the county. This structure today has been restored to its original stateleness by the present owners, who are the proprietors of the David Harum Restaurant. The railroad project became the Syracuse and Binghamton Railroad in 1854, and opened up transportation in the area.

In 1856, Jedediah's Great Western Store burned to the ground, but he soon started over again, building the Barber Block in 1862 on the same site as the old store. This business block is today occupied by the Homer Hardware, the Homer Rexall Store, and Clarke Brothers Store. At one time many years ago, plays were presented and dances were held on the third floor of this interesting building with its Mansard roof.

Jedediah had a son, Paris, who started the first beautification of the village. He was a horticulturist and landscape artist, and planted the maples and elms on the Village Green and on Main, Clinton, and Cayuga Streets. Many of the elms have succumbed to Dutch Elm disease, but several of the original maples still exist.

The late 1800's saw a period of industrial activity in the village and manufactured products including wagons and carriages, oil cloth, writing ink, fish lines, piano boxes, and the famous "S" wrench. Flagstone walks were laid, streets were lighted with gas, and the first horse cars plied between Cortland and Homer. A new pavilion was erected on the Village Green and band concerts were given there. In 1913, the streets were paved with brick and trolleys ran regularly until 1935.

Scott

Scott lies in the northwestern part [illegible]land County and was a portion of the old Military Township #14 of Tully. It was formed from the town of Preble on April 14, 1815 and was named after General Winfield Scott. He was a famous hero of the War of 1812, which included the Semion.

The first permanent settlement was made in the town in 1799. During that same year, several other settlements were established by the Rhode Island families, who like that state's founder, Roger Williams, desired to practice their Baptist religion.

Preble

Preble, one of the smallest towns in Cortland County, was carved from Tully in 1808 and set apart from Scott in 1815. This town was named for Commodore Edward Preble, the naval hero of the United States' war with Tripoli from 1803-1804.

The first settlers of Preble were James Cravath and John Gill who arrived in 1796. Soon after 1800, people from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Eastern New York began coming to Preble.

Baltimore became the site of the first post office in the town of Preble. It was located on the west side of Route 11 about 5.5 miles from Homer. The site of this post office was believed to be the center of the town.

The first Cortland County school was built in Preble in 1801. It was also located on the west side of Highway #11. This schoolhouse is now over 150 years old and still stands forlorn, abandoned, aand almost hidden from the road.

Truxton

Truxton was organized on April 8, 1808, from the southern half of Fabius. It was named for Com. Thomas Truxton who commanded an army vessel in the Revolutionary War. The first settlers were Samuel Benedict, Christopher Whitney and Jonah Stiles.

The first settlers of this town travelled through the region of Manlius and Cazenovia along Indian trails to reach the valleys of Truxton and Cuyler. The "Old Salt Road", which connected Binghamton with the salt wells of Syracuse was a much travelled road through the town of Truxton.

The railroad was built in 1871-72. It was called the Midland and went through DeRuyter and Quaker Basin to Norwich.

Later it was discontinued beyond DeRuyter and as the Elmira, Cortland and Northern, it connected Elmira with Canastota on the New York Central; later it became a part of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The main highway, once a turnpike with toll-gates became Route 13.

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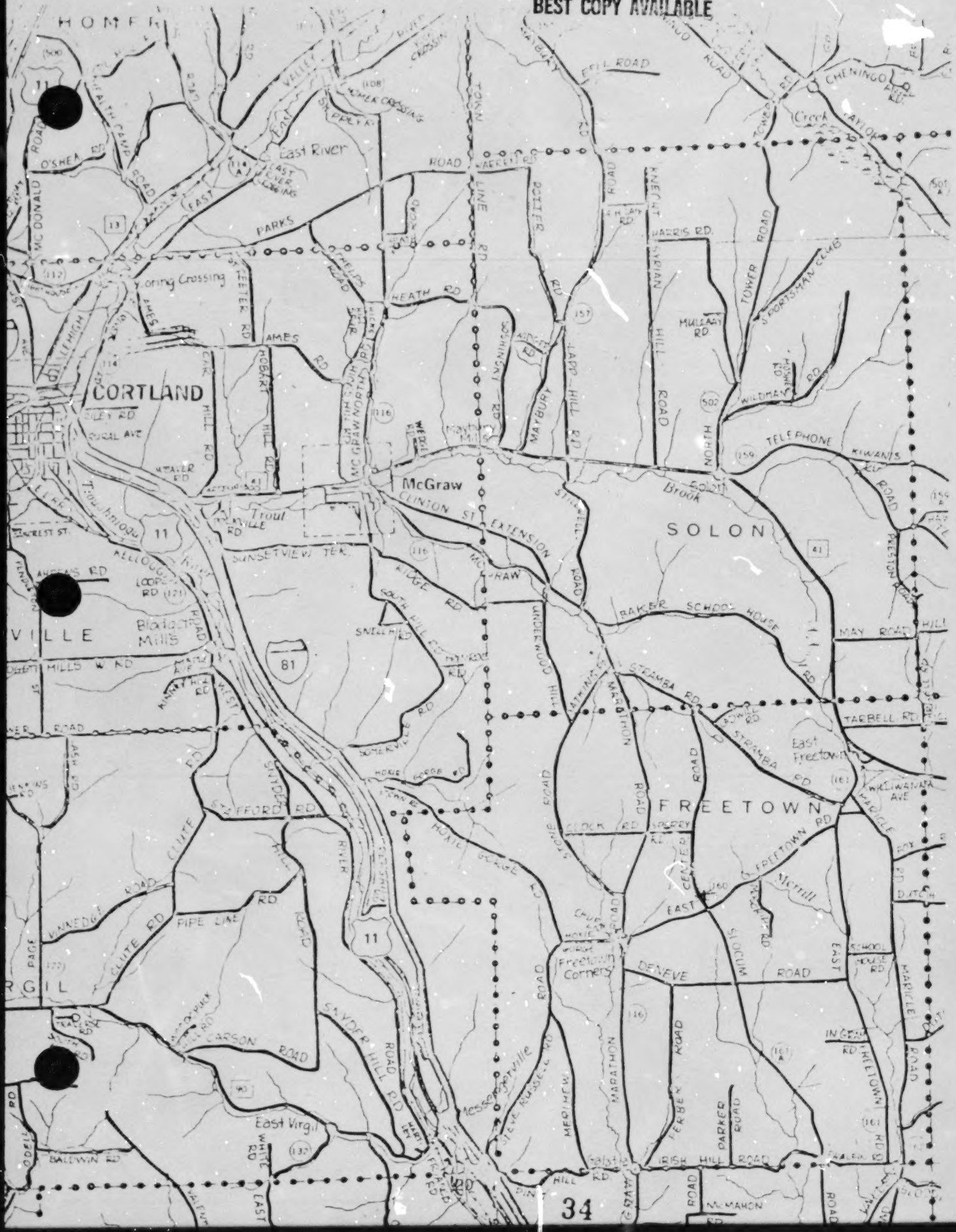

McGraw

The village of McGraw is located in the center of Cortland County, situated at the intersection of three valleys.

The village was named in honor of its first settler, Samuel McGraw, who settled in 1806. His log cabin later became a store and post office. His son, Harry, was the first storekeeper and postmaster before 1829. Mail came in by stagecoach, later by trolley-car, then by railroad, and now by bus. R.F.D. delivery began in 1901.

The early industries included farming, work in tanneries, saw mills, grist mills, wagon and blacksmith shops. Potash and pearl ash were barreled and drawn by teams to Albany and were exchanged for necessities for the pioneer homes. More than 20 buildings are standing and in use that were built 100 years ago.

The four cannons on the soldier's lot in the cemetery came from battles of the Civil War, and were obtained for the village by Col. Daniel Lamont, who was secretary of war during Cleveland's second administration. A state marker in honor of Col. Lamont is on Main Street in front of the library, which was the Colonel's early home.

In the 1870's, a pagoda-shaped band stand was built across the creek on Main Street. Band concerts were held every Saturday night.

McGraw was incorporated in 1869. The only brick house in town was erected in 1880. A building boom in 1882 resulted in 20 new houses. In 1902, telephones were installed in business places and homes. Trolley cars were on the streets in 1895 and in 1897 the railroad came. There were bicycle clubs and cinder paths in 1905. The great fire of 1906 destroyed 12 places of business on Main Street.

The name of the village was shortened to McGraw in 1932. McGraw is known as "the Corset City." In 1873, two doctors, the Warner Bros., designed and produced a health corset. After the firm moved to Bridgeport, the McGraws carried on the corset industry for many years. Now the Vesta has a large manufacturing plant in a new building. The old building was destroyed by fire in 1946. The Empire, now closed manufactured corsets for about 50 years. The Higgins Supply Co. produces a great quantity of corset steels and brass trimmings.

McGraw has also been called "The Box City of the World" because of the great output of boxes by the Central Box Co. and the McGraw Box Co.

A fine recreation center has been presented to the village by the Purchas family.

In 1950, the American Legion bought a house on Main Street for Post Home.

Natural gas was piped into the village in 1956.

A fire department was organized in 1869. The village water department began its service in 1908. Important improvements, costing $40,000 were made in 1952 and over 1,500 people are now sewed.

Solon - Basic History

Solon is one of the interior towns of the county and is bounded on the north side by Truxton, on the east by Taylor, on the south by Freetown, and on the west by Cortlandville and Homer.

Solon was No. 20 of the townships comprising the old military tract and originally embraced the territory now comprising Solon, Taylor, and the southern portions of Truxton and Cuyler. The town was organized on March 9, 1798.

The first birth in the town of Solon was the daughter of Johnson Bingham. The first marriage united Robert Smith and Amy Smith. The first death was that of Lydia Bingham on May 9, 1798. Johnson Bingham died in 1843; his wife, Annie, died in 1862 at the age of 102 years.

St. Bridget's Church, the first Catholic Church in Cortland County, was organized in Solon in 1850 and built in 1851. First to attend the group was Father Hayes of Syracuse.

Solon Baptist Church was organized in the log barn of Johnson Bingham in the year 1804. Meetings were held in houses, barns, and later in schoolhouses. In 1835, an acre of land was bought from Mr. Maybury for $80 on which the church building was erected.

The old Maybury Mill, built by John Maybury prior to 1840, was demolished in 1958. Soon after it was built, it passed into the hands of General S.G. Hathaway and then leased to C. Albridge, who ran it a number of years with a son-in-law, William Door. It then passed into the hands of P.F. Moses, and finally in 1874 to E.B. Maybury, nephew of the builder. The mill at one time had two run of stones and did a flourishing business.

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Native Americans

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Religion

Transportation

Walking Towns

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Architecture

Carl Andrews	28 Clinton Street Homer, NY 13077	749-3073
Shirley Heppell	33 Lincoln Avenue Cortland, NY 13045	753-0878
Anne Hilton	46 North Main St. Homer, NY 13077	749-2444
Lucy Kullmar	59 South Street McGraw, NY 13101	836-6838
Hazel Parsons	Stilwater Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6638
Pauline Strong	2872 Ridge Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6957* Except Fri. or (9-12) on Sunday

Civil War

Kenneth Eaton	49 Clinton Street Homer, NY 13077	749-3105
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Jean VanBuskirk	183 Groton Ave Cortland, NY 13045	756-2345

Crafts

Alice Blatchley	Virgil Road, RD #2 Cortland, NY 13045	756-8707
Kitsie DeMaree	c/o JoAnn Fabrics Cortland, NY 13045	756-6204
Anne Dexter	15½ Cayuga Street Homer, NY 13077	749-4396
Dottie Henry	Little York, NY	749-4606
Ruth Kerr	47 North Main St. Homer, NY 13077	749-4083
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739

Connie Steger	Cold Brook Road Homer, NY 13077	749-4000
Connie Swarr	24 Phelps Road Homer, NY 13077	749-2472
Dorat Edgar Swart	1151 Ellis Hollow Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850	
Katherine Tinker	Brake Hill Road Homer, NY 13077	749-4127
Debbie Thompson	RD #2 Cortland, NY 13045	756-2111
Marie White	45 Mildred Street Cortland, NY 13045	753-8470
Dottie Henry	Little York Homer, NY 13077	749-4606
<u>Customs Traditions</u>		
Alice Blatchley	Virgil Road RD #2 Cortland, NY 13045	756-8707
Hans Finke	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
<u>Education</u>		
Harold Burgess	8 Prospect Terrace Cortland, NY 13045	753-0655
Katherine Hanchett	6 Isabel Drive Cortland, NY 13045	756-9362
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Virginia Whitmarsh	Tripoli Road Cuyler, NY	842-6395
<u>Family Life</u>		
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
<u>Fire Department</u>		
Ed Greeman	4 West Main Street McGraw, NY 13101	836-6732

Folklore

Lou Wolner	23 Cayuga Street Homer, NY 13077	749-2144

Geneology

Seymore Dunn	8 Hill Street Cortland, NY 13045	753-3988
Clarence Maybury	Wildman Road E. Freetown, NY	836-6646
Hazel Parsons	Stillwell Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6638

General

Thelma Burlingame	Main Street Cincinnatus, NY	863-4325
Lou Wolner	23 Cayuga Street Homer, NY 13077	749-2144

*See Town Historians

Geography

John Gustafson	Cold Brook Road Homer, NY 13077	749-3655
Roger Heppell	33 Lincoln Ave Cortland, NY 13045	753-0878
JoAnn Wickman	50 Madison Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-5438

Histories

Shirley Heppell	33 Lincoln Ave Cortland, NY 13045	753-0878
Clarence Maybury	Wildman Road E. Freetown, NY	836-6646
Leonard Ralston	History Dept., SUNY Cortland, NY 13045	756-7179

*See Town Historians

Immigration

Hans Finke	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Walter Hanchett	History Dept., SUNY Cortland, NY 13045	753-2723
Shirley Heppell	33 Lincoln Ave Cortland, NY 13045	753- 0878
Maryann Kane	168 Groton Ave Cortland, NY 13045	753-0124
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Lou Vanaria	History Dept., SUNY Cortland, NY 13045	756-7179

Industry

Harold Burgess	8 Prospect Terrace Cortland, NY 13045	753-0655
Thelma Burlingame	Main Street Cincinnatus, NY	863-4325
Shirley Heppell	33 Lincolns Avenue Cortland, NY 13045	753-0878
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Hazel Parsons	Stilwell Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6638
Pauline Strong	2872 Ridge Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6957* (9-12) Except Fri. or Sunday

Music

Fred & Mark Carlton	1883 Kohner Road Virgil, NY 13045	835-6161
Fred Gee	36 Hayes Street Norwich, NY 13815	(607)336-1486
Ross McKay	68 North Main St. Homer, NY 13077	749-3960
Robin Schade	Box 272 Madison, NY 13402	

Native Americans

John Gustafson	Cold Brook Road Homer, NY 13077	749-3655
Ellis McDowell - Loudan	3 W. Academy Street McGraw, NY 13101	836-6642

Prominent Families

Marlea Beckwith	Telephone Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6265
Shirley Heppell	33 Lincoln Avenue Cortland, NY 13045	753-0878
Leslie O'Malley	33 Charles Street Cortland, NY 13045	756-7739
Hazel Parsons	Stillwell Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6638

Religion

Elizabeth Baldwin	Box 144 Homer, NY 13077	749-4042
Lucille Goodale	50 Elm Street McGraw, NY 13101	836-6719
Maryanne Kane	168 Groton Avenue Cortland, NY 13045	753-0124

Transportation

Harold Burgess	8 Prospect Terrace Cortland, NY 13045	753-0655
Seymore Dunn	8 Hill Street Cortland, NY 13045	753-3988
Betty Palm	4 Isabel Drive Cortland, NY 13045	753-0301
Richard Palmer	Herald Journal Syracuse, NY	(315)473-7700
Lou Wolner	23 Cayuga Street Homer, NY 13077	749-2144

Walking Town

Anna Hilton	46 North Main St. Homer, NY 13077	749-2444 (School)
Joe Kressler	Route 26 Willet, NY 13863	836-4101 (School) 836-3969 (Home)
Lucy Kullman	59 South Street McGraw, NY 13101	836-6838
Rachel MacRae	Main Street Cincinnatus, NY	836-4271
Pauline Strong	2872 Ridge Road McGraw, NY 13101	836-6480

Resource Index

Andrews, Carl
Baldwin, Elizabeth
Beckwith, Marlea
Blatchley, Alice
Burgess, Harold
Burlingame, Thelma
Carlton, Fred
Carlton, Mark
Dexter, An[illegible]
Dunn, Seymore
Eaton, Kenneth
Finke, Hans
Gee, Fred
Goodale, Lucille
Greenman, Ed
Gustafson, John
Hanchett, Katherine
Hanchett, Walter
Henry, Dottie
Heppell, Roger
Heppell, Shirley
Hilton, Anna
Kane, Maryanne
[illegible]err, Ruth
[illegible]essler, Jo
Kullman, Lucy
MacRoe, Rachel
Maybury, Clarence
McDowell-Loudan, Ellis
McKay, Ross
O'Malley, Leslie
Palon, Betty
Palmer, Richard
Parsons, Hazel
Perry, Ella
Ralston, Leonard
Schade, Robin
Steger, Connie
Strong, Pauline
Swarr, Connie
Swart, Dora
Swart, Edgar
Thompson, Debbie Bennett
Tinker, Katherine
Vanaria, Lou
VanBuskirk, Jean
White, Marie
Whitmarsh, Virginia
[illegible]ickman, JoAnne
[illegible]olner, Lou

Human Resource Index

Andrews, Carl
28 Clinton Avenue, Homer, NY 13077 749-3073
Lecture - demonstration on barn building from early times to present times.

Baldwin, Elizabeth
Box 144, Homer, NY 13077 749-4042
Town historian - She requests information about her audience to gear her presentation.

Beckwith, Marlea
Telephone Road, Solon, NY 836-6265
She will discuss the Pritchard family, one of the first prominent families of Solon.

Blatchley, Alice
Virgil Road, RD #2, Cortland, NY 13045 756-8707
Cortlandville Town Historian - She will give a demonstration on candle-dipping and discuss recipes of the 1800's and 1900's.

Burgess, Harold
8 Prospect Terrace, Cortland, NY 13045 753-0655
Cortland Historian - He will give a general overview of the history of Cortland.

Burlingame, Thelma
Main Street, Cincinnatus, NY 836-4325
She will give a general overview of the history of Cincinnatus.

Carlton, Fred and Mark
Virgil, New York 13045 835-6161
They may play old-country music on their fiddles.

Dexter, Anne
15½ Cayuga Street, Homer, NY 13077 749-4396
She will give a presentation and demonstration on quilting and exhibit her button collection.

Dunn, Seymour
8 Hill Street, Cortland, NY 13045 753-3988
He will disucss the railroads, origin of place-names, the Randall family, sheep breeding and early paid schools.

Eaton, Kenneth
49 Clinton Street, Homer, NY 13077 749-3105
He will give a presentation on the Civil War period and early railroads.

Frinke, Hans
33 Charles Street, Cortland, NY 13045 756-7739
He will discuss the origin of German Christmas and how the U.S. has adapted customs from Germany. He will also talk about early immigration from Germany.

Gee, Fred
36 Hayes Street, Norwich, NY 13815 (607)336-1486
He writes new songs in the style of old music (Irish music using banjo).

Goodale, Lucille
50 Elm Street, McGraw, NY 13101 836-6719
The history of the Baptist and Methodist Churches in McGraw.

Greenman, Ed
41 West Main Street, McGraw, NY 13101 836-6732
He will give a presentation and demonstration of the McGraw Fire Department and its funding.

Gustafson, John
Cold Brrook Road, RD #1, Homer, NY 13077 749-3655
Presentation includes Indian artifacts and/or geography of the area.

Hanchett, Katherine
6 Isabel Drive, Cortland, NY 13045 756-9362
History of a Black College in McGrawville.

Hanchett, Walter Dr.
History Dept., SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045 753-2723
He will give a presentation on the Slavs in Cortland during the 1920's.

Henry, Dottie
Little York, NY 749-4606
A presentation and demonstration of dolls (china, wood etc.).

Heppell, Roger
33 Lincoln Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 753-0878
He will give a presentation and demonstration on the geography of Cortland.

Heppell, Shirley
33 Lincoln Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 753-0878
County historian - The history of Cortland County.

Hilton, Anna
46 North Main Street, Homer, NY 13077 749-2444
She will give walking tours throughout Homer.

Kane, Maryanne
168 Groton Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 753-0124
Teacher at St. Mary's School - She will give a presentation on the Irish-Catholics of Cortland.

Kerr, Ruth
47 North Main Street, Homer, NY 13077 749-4083
She will give a presentation and demonstration on weaving.

Kressler, Joe
Route 26, Willet, NY 863-3969
Walking tours and general history of Cincinnatus.

Kullman, Lucy
59 South Hill, McGraw, NY 13101 836-6838
She will give tours of McGraw and the historical museum.

MacRae, Rachel
Box 215, Cincinnatus, NY 13040 863-4271
Town Historian - General history and industries of Cincinnatus.

Maybury, Clarence
Wildman Road, East Freetown, NY 13055 836-6646
He will give a dual presentation with Hazel Parsons on the history of Solon.

McDowell-Loudan, Ellis
3 Academy Street, McGraw, NY 13101 836-6642
A history of Native-American Indians.

McKay, Ross
68 North Main Street, Homer, NY 13077 749-3960
Old time fiddler - songs of New York State.

O'Malley, Leslie
33 Charles Street, Cortland, NY 13045 756-7739
She will discuss the British Isles' Christmas, the Irish in Cortland County and transportation.

Palm, Betty
4 Isabel Drive, Cortland, NY 13045 753-0301
She will discuss the roads of Cortland County in 1800's and 1900's.

Palmer, Richard
Herald Journal Newspaper, Clinton Square, P.O. 4915, Syracuse, NY (315) 473-7700
He will discuss the history of railroads.

Parsons, Hazel
Stilwell Road, McGraw, NY 13101 836-6638
Historical background of Solon, changing times and genology of 1800's and 1900's.

Perry, Ella
RD #3, Box 165, Homer, NY 13077 749-4356
Homer town historian.

Ralston, Leonard Dr.
History Dept. SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045 753-2723
History of Cortland County in 19th Century Keys in on how people lived, presentation developed through his research using computers with the statistics available. (High School Level)

Schade, Robin
Center Road, Box 273, Madison, NY 13402
New York troubadour - songs of New York State. He will give a general history of New York State.

Steger, Connie
Cold Brook Road, Homer, NY 13077 749-4000
She will give a presentation of folklore and folkcrafts.

Strong, Pauline
2872 Ridge Road, McGraw, NY 13101 836-6480
McGraw historian - She will give walking tours with Lucy Kullman and sketch history of McGraw.

Swarr, Connie
24 Phelps Road, Homer, NY 13077 749-2472
She will give a presentation and demonstration on weaving.

Swart, Dora and Edgar
1151 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
They will give a presentation and demonstration of flax - (uses and breakdown).

Thompson, Debbie Bennett
RD #2, Cortland, NY 13045 756-2111
She will present a demonstration on spinning.

Tinker, Katherine
Brake Hill Road, Homer, NY 13077 749-4127
She will give a presentation and demonstration on quilting.

Vanaria, Lou Dr.
History Dept. SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045 753-2723
He will present a lecture on the immigration of Italians.

Van Buskirk, Jean
183 Groton Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 756-2345
Mr. VanBuskirk will present a lecture; lecture demonstration of the local area in relation to their involvement in the Civil War.

White, Marie
45 Mildred Street, Cortland, NY 13045 753-8470
Presents a lecture demonstration on dolls.

Whitmarsh, Virginia
4747 Tripoli Street, Cuyler, NY 13050 842-6395
Presents a lecture on one room school houses.

Wickman, Jeanne
50 Madison Street, Cortland, NY 13045 756-5438
A lecture of geography of Cortland.

Wolner, Lou
23 Cayuga Street, Homer, NY 13077 749-2144
He will present a lecture on New York State folklore.

Historians of Cortland County, NY 1983

County Historian	Mrs. Roger C. Heppel, 33 Lincoln Ave Cortland, NY 13045 753-0878
Town Historians	
Cincinnatus	Mrs. Rachel MacRae, Box 215 Cincinnatus, NY 13040 863-4271
Cortlandville	Mrs. Robert Blatchley, Virgil Rd., RD #2 Cortland, NY 13045 756-8707
Cuyler	Mrs. Harry R. Ludke, 4721 Bennett Road Cuyler, NY 13050 842-6781
Freetown	Mrs. Allen J. Christopher, RD #3 Marathon, NY 13803 849-3381
Harford	Mrs. Russell Negus, RD #2, Box 204 Marathon, NY 13803 844-9969
Homer	Miss Ella Perry, RD #3, Box 165 Homer, NY 13077 749-4356
Lapeer	Mrs. Dennis Lavens, Lapeer Marathon, NY 13803 849-6657
Marathon	Mrs. Floyd A. Jones, Box 124, RD #1 Marathon, NY 13803 849-6796
Preble	Mrs. Douglas L. Warner, 6791 Steger Rd., Box 136 Preble, NY 13141 749-3636
Scott	Mrs. Gladys Keep, RD #3, Box 260, Scott Rd. Homer, NY 13077 749-2885
Solon	Mrs. Morton E. Parsons, Stilwell Rd. McGraw, NY 13101 836-6638
Taylor	Mrs. Ruby Potter East Freetown, NY 13055 836-3576
Truxton	Donald McCall, RD #1, Truxton, NY 13158 no phone
Virgil	Mrs. Robert Bays, 2208 Cortland St. Virgil Cortland, NY 13045 835-3764
Willet	Mrs. Shirley Halstrom, RD #1, Lower Village Rd. Cincinnatus, NY 13040 unlisted

City and Village Historians

Homer	Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, Box 144 Homer, NY 13077 749-4042
Marathon	Mrs. Eloise Couch, Galatia Street Marathon, NY 13803
McGraw	Mrs. Fred Strong, Box 72, 2872 Ridge Rd. McGraw, NY 13101 836-6480
City of Cortland	Harold P. Burgess, 8 Prospect Terrace Cortland, NY 13045 753-0655
Archivist	Mrs. W.H. Currie, Box 54, RD #2 Tully, NY 13159

Site Index

Cincinnatus

Judy Wheeler House
Brick Store
Bill Currier House
Ray White House
Rail Road
Bennett House
Lee Kibbe Mill
Kellogg Library
Heritage House
Elmer Sperry Birthplace
"The Green"
Legion Hall (Cincinnatus Academy)

Cortland County

Suggett House
1890 House

Homer C.S.D.

Village Green
Phillips Free Library

McGraw C.S.D.

Hathaway House
Solon Sportsman's Club, Inc.
McGraw Recreation Center
Lamont Library
McGraw Methodist Church
Presbyterian Churhc
Central Paper Box Company
Higgins Supply Co., Inc.
McGraw Box Company
Vesta Corset Co., Inc.
McGraw Fire Department
McGraw Cemetery

KINGMAN HOUSE (Judy Wheeler House)

Located on main street by the bank. Built by the Kingman family in 1804. The Kingman's were one of the first families to settle in Cincinnatus.

BRICK HOUSE (THE)

Located on main street near "The Green". Built by the Kingman Family it was the first brick building in Cincinnatus.

WILLIAM CURRIER'S HOUSE

This house was the gunsmith shop of R. Moore, a noted gunsmith during the Civil War period. An eagle is carved on the corner stone of the house which was the trademark of Mr. Moore.
The location of Mr. Currier's garage was the location of Felter's locksmith shop.

RAMON WHITE HOUSE

This is the location of a tannery on Holmes Brook.

RAILROAD

The turntable is located behind the True Value Store and the new housing project on Route 26. The railroad ran from Cincinnatus, East Freetown, Solon, McGraw and Cortland.

BENNETT HOTEL

Located on the corner of main street it was one of the first hotels built in Cincinnatus.

LEE KIBBE MILL

Located at Solon Pond. It was a grist and saw mill. The mill is still in operation today.

KELLOGG LIBRARY

Located at the corner of Main Street and Route 26. It was built from a trust fund given by the Kellogg Family.

HERITAGE HOUSE

Located on the corner of Telephone Road and Route 26. Previously was the Congregational Church which was built about 1804.

"THE GREEN"

Located on Main Street. A stone monument stands there which give the names of the Revolutionary soldiers and first pioneer settlers of Cincinnatus.

ELMER SPERRY BIRTHPLACE

Located on South Main Street. Birthplace of famous inventor. Had over 400 patents and is best noted for the invention of the gyroscope.

LEGION HALL (Cincinnatus Academy)

Located on Main Street adjoining the school ballfield. Built in the mid-1850's as a school.

Buildings in the Homer Historic Register

80 South Main Street. Built in 1825, this Federal house shows a 3-bay blindarcaded facade with Ionic pilasters, hip roof and balustrade. The porch is a Victorian addition, and there was once a matching wing. Once the residence of "David Harum".

81 South Main Street. This Federal house, built in 1819, was remodeled in the 1880's in the French Second Empire (Napolean, III) style. The typical features of this style are the steep "Mansard" roof, the projecting dormer windows and the bracketed eaves. Andrew D. White was born here.

84 South Main Street. This is an important 19th century style. Typical features include the cupola, a flat roof with wide projecting cornices supported by brackets, tall windows and double doors at the entrance. This dignified medium sized house was built in 1868.

86 South Main Street. This Federal house shows a formal, symmetrical, flush-boarded facade. Its two-story pilasters join at the cornice to form three blind arcades. The whole effect is delicate, light, graceful.

90 South Main Street. This brick Italiante house of the 1840's was once owned by Joseph Schermerhorn, son-in-law of Jedediah Barber.

The Barber Block. This commercial building with its Mansard roof and decorative cast iron surrounds on the first floor windows was built by Jedediah Barber in 1863.

David Harum Restaurant. Jedediah Barber built this building in 1853 to be used as a bank. The structure with its cast iron overwindows, continues to be one of the most interesting commercial buildings in the county.

Briggs' Cadillac Building. This interesting 1888 Romanesque building has 12 chimneys along the length of the roof, each originally led to a "chuck" stove. The arched entrance has very decorative foliated designs picked out in gold leaf.

Homer Village Green

When the village was settled, this 6 acre tract of land was set aside for the church and school and has always belonged to the First Religious Society, having been acquired by the group in 1805. Since many settlers were from New England, Homer had to have its "Green". In early days, it was used as a drill ground for the militia. The Green continues to see a myriad of activities including concerts, and ice skating.

Phillips Free Library

Main Street, Homer, New York, given to village by the Hon. George W. Phillips, was opened in June 1903, the year following his death.

New Hope Mills

Loacted on Route 41A in the village of New Hope, New York. This mill, built in 1823, still grinds wheat, buckwheat, corn, and rye, powered by both a 26 foot overshots waterwheel (turbine) and deisel engines. Crossing the mill stream is a covered bridge, built in recent years. The present owner is Leland Weed, RD #2, Moravia, New York 13118. This place was declared one of five Cayuga County Scenic sites in 1971.

Highland Park (New York State)

Offers tours in maple syrup season (contact BOCES Outdoor Education person).

Vesta Corset Company, Inc.

The Vesta Corset Co., Inc. is manufacturing corsets, corselettes, and girdles. On January 1, 1955, Mr. Price sold his interest to Mr. James Brown who became sole owner. On July 1, 1955, the proprietorship was changed to a corporation with officers.

McGraw Recreation Center

This center was given by Mr. & Mrs. Harry Purchas to the village June 29, 1955, for the benefit of the youth of the community. Summer and winter activities take place there.

Lamont Memorial Library

This library was named in memory of Daniel Scott Lamont, who was secretary to Grover Cleveland. The first librarian was Mrs. Charlotte Fancher and in 1929, Miss Elizabeth K. Lamont gave $1,000 for the addition of a children's room. The historical museum is located upstairs.

McGraw Methodist Church

The Methodist Church was completed and dedicated in 1834. Along main street land was leased by Asher Graves for the Baptist and Methodist Churches.

Presbyterian Church

At an annual meeting of the Society in January 1835, it was resolved to build "a house for the Lord," and in just one year and 23 days, it was proposed. Since the old building became inadequate and torn down in 1901, a new site, on West Main Street was purchased from Dr. H.C. Hendrick. It was the site of the first frame house of Samuel McGraw. Dedication services were held February 28, 1902.

Central Paper Box Co., Inc.

This company was started in 1897 by the late F.A. Purchas for the manufacture of set-up paper boxes, display boxes and similar items. On January 1, 1948, it was incorporated.

Higgins Supply Co., Inc.

The business was founded in 1921 by Max S. Higgins, George H. Higgins and Edward A. Clark to manufacture corset steels and clasps used by local corset manuacturers.

Cortland County Historical Society, Inc.
Cortland, New York 13045

Office and Museum
25 Homer Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045
Telephone (607) 756-6071

Museum Hours
Tuesday-Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM
Library Hours
Tuesday - Friday
1:00 - 5:00 PM

Saturday
Both Open 1:00 - 4:00 PM

SELECTED LIBRARY RESOURCES

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION RECORDS

CEMETERY RECORDS — County coverage except City of Cortland

CENSUS (POPULATION) — Residents of Cortland County, NY, 1800-1810 (unofficial finding list)
Federal: 1820-1880; 1800-1910 (microfilm)
State: 1825 (except Homer & Solon) 1835; 1855-1875

CHURCH — Largely manuscript; some indexed

DIRECTORIES — City and County of Cortland, 1869 - date

GENEALOGIES — Manuscript and printed genealogies of Cortland Co. people

HANDBILLS, PROGRAMS, TICKETS, ETC.

HISTORIES — 19th and 20th century histories of the county, its towns and the people, also NYS histories; other NYS county histories.

MAPS

1855 Cortland County
1855 Cortland Village
1855 Homer Village

Sanborn Insurance, Cortland & McGraw, 1900 - 1935

1863 Chenango and Cortland Counties

1876 Cortland Co. Atlas

1888 Cortland Village
All of the above include landowners/householders

Varied collections of 20th century maps showing roads, post offices and railroads for the entire county. Some individual town maps.

MILITARY RECORDS
NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS
ORAL TAPES

ERSONAL PAPERS	
PHOTOGRAPHS	
SCHOOL RECORDS	
SCRAPBOOKS	Many indexed
SLIDES	
TOWN/VILLAGE RECORDS	Largely 19th century school, military, town meetings, assessment rolls, etc. Holdings vary from town to town.
VITAL RECORDS	To date (Incomplete; various sources)

Cortland County Historical Society, Inc.

Materials Available

Price List

1.	Index of Personal Names in French's N.Y. State Gazetteer	$5.10
2.	Cortland County Chronicles:	
	a. Vol. I - collection of C.C.H.S. papers on various Cortland County historical developments	$5.10
	b. Vol. II - collection of C.C.H.S. papers on Cortland County development	
	c. Vol. III - "They Came into a Delightful Region" by Porter K. Bennett	$7.00
	d. Vols. I & II purchased at same time	$7.00
	e. Vols. I, II and III purchased at same time	$13.50
3.	Growing Up In Cortland by Cora E. Higgins	
	a. soft bound	$3.50
	b. hard bound limited edition	$10.00
4.	Residents of Cortland County in 1800-1810 by C.C.H.S.	$3.50
5.	Paris Lived in Homer by Herbert B. Howe	$3.75
6.	Stories of Cortland County by Bertha Blodgett, rev. ed. by Eleanor Blodgett	$6.50
7.	Index for Combination Atlas-Map of 1876 for Cortland County	$1.00
8.	Cortland County Sesquicentennial 1808-1958	$3.75
9.	British Isles Foods & Traditions, phamphlet by C.C.H.S.	$3.00
10.	German Heritage Cookbook, phamphlet by C.C.H.S.	$1.25
11.	Winter Weaving and Other Poems by Lillia M. Olcott	$2.50
12.	This 'N That Early Staffordshire Tableware by Charles A. Jones	.50
13.	World of The Gunsmith by Dr. Carlton A. Maile, Tourguide Press	$1.10
14.	World of the Blacksmith by Dr. Carlton A. Maile, Tourguide Press	$1.10
15.	C.N.Y.G.S. "Tree Talks" Cortland County 1820 Census	$6.00
16.	Italians In Cortland, phamphlet	.25
17.	Normal School Scene stationary (12 in a package)	$1.65
18.	Suggett House Scene stationary (15 in a box)	$2.50
19.	Homer Green, Homer, N.Y. stationary (15 in a packet)	$2.00
20.	Suggett House Scene postcard	.15
21.	Victorian postcards (9)	$1.70
22.	Three Views of Cortland postcards: Birdseye view of the City, St. Mary's Church, Gunzeand Farm	@ .15
23.	7-Valley Weavers postcard	.25
24.	Nevr-Dull Magic Wadding Polish	$1.25
25.	Town of Cortlandville 1829-1979	$2.00
26.	As We Were, A Picture History of Virgil, by Virgil Historical Society, 1979	$3.50
27.	Virgil Scenes stationary (15 notes - 5 scenes)	$3.00
28.	Handblown moulded Elkanah Watson bottle	$5.00
29.	Stencilled coverlet pattern kit	$15.00
30.	I Love NY record by Robin Schade	$8.50
31.	Wrapping paper:	
	a. "Newsprint"	$1.00
	b. "Quilts"	$2.50

32.	Suggett House picture	
	a. plain 8" x 11"	$1.00
	b. painted and framed 9" x 12"	$5.00
33.	Roswell Randall House picture	.10
34.	Company G by A. R. Barlow - 1899	$5.35
35.	The New York State Railways by Shelden S. King	$9.65
36.	New York State Storefronts by Victoria Romanoff and Sarah W. Adams	$5.30
37.	The New "Grip's" Historical Souvneir of Cortland by Kevin and Elaine Harrington	$2.15
38.	Stories of Cuyler, Vol. I by Virginia Whitmarsh	$5.50
39.	Cuyler Schools, Beginning to End by Virginia Whitmarsh	$6.50
40.	A Postcard History of Cuyler by Virginia Whitmarsh	$4.00
41.	Coloring Books: published by Spizzirri Publishing Co., Inc.	
	a. "Northeast Indians"	$1.25
	b. "Dolls"	$1.25
	c. "Transportation"	$1.25
	d. "The American Truck"	$1.00
42.	Quill pens	.75
43.	Civil War posters:	
	a. Murderer Reward for Lincoln Assination	.50
	b. The Washington Cavalry Bounty	.50
	c. Mulligan's Brigade Bounty	.50
	d. Recruiting in City Hall Park, New York 1864	.50
44.	Money packets:	
	a. New York Currency 1776-1864	.75
	b. Colonial and Revolutionary Currency 1773-1781	.75
	c. Colonial and Revolutionary Currency 1773-1781	.75
45.	Marathon Bicentennial	.55
46.	Quill pens	.75
47.	A Birdseye View of Cortland Village 1829	$5.35
48.	Quarterly Bulletin	$1.00 ea.

Please include $1.50 in total price for postage and handling.
Members receive a 10% discount on all items.

Tours of the SUGGETT HOUSE MUSEUM: The Suggett House was built by James Suggett, a Cortland entrepreneur, in 1869-70 for his large Victorian family. Learn about how a Cortland family lived in the 1870's, their work and recreation. See paintings of Cortland County residents by Susan Waters, Jere Wickwire and Francis B. Carpenter. Enjoy playing with old children's toys and try on antique clothing in our hands-on Children's Room. There's also a Military Room to interest men and boys.

II. SLIDE-TAPE PROGRAMS:

1. "A VISIT TO THE WORLD OF YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS' shows what life was like for children in the 1870's and can be used to prepare for a tour. (40 mins.; grades 2-4)

2. "AT HOME WITH THE SUGGETT FAMILY" describes Cortland in the mid-Victorian period and offers an architectural tour of the Suggett House, an Italianate structure similar to many built in Cortland County in the mid-19th century. (15 mins.; all ages)

3. "FARMING WAS FAMILY WORK" describes the life of a farming family in the early 1800's. Produced by Sturbridge Village (20 mins.; all ages)

4. "19th CENTURY DOMESTIC LIGHTING" describes how homes were lit between 1800 to 1900 and identifies different lamps and fixtures. Produced by the American Association for State and Local History (20 mins.; all ages)

5. HISTORIC CRAFTS SERIES (each is 20 mins.; all ages):
   a. "ICE HARVESTING"
   b. "SAUSAGE STUFFING"
   c. "PUMP LOG BORING"
   d. "WOODEN SHOE MAKING"
   e. "SCOOP SHOVEL MAKING

Produced by Madison County Historical Society.

III. SLIDE PROGRAMS/SPEAKERS:

1. "A GUIDEBOOK TO CORTLAND" tells the story behind some Main St. buildings built in the 19th and early 20th centuries. (25 mins.; grade 4 to adult)

2. "MADE IN CORTLAND" describes Cortland County industries from 1790 to the present. (20 mins.; grade 4 to adult)

3. "DOLLHOUSES THROUGH THE AGES" shows changing life styles from 1600 to 1930 through miniatures. (25 mins.; grade 4 to adult)

4. "IRONHEARTS AND CHINOLINES" tells the experiences of Cortland County soldiers in the Civil War and of the families they left behind (grade 7 to adult) (35 mins.)

Want a topic not listed? Call us and ask!

V. HANDS-ON HISTORY KITS: These artifact kits can be kept for 14 days:

1. "When I Was In the Civil War" (grades 5-8)
2. "Schooldays Long Ago" (grades 1-4)
3. "When Only Indians Were Here" (grades 1-6)
4. "Women's Work in the Not-So-Good Old Days" (grades 3-5)
5. "The Age of Homespun" (grades 3-5)

These kits contain reproductions or indestructible original items which are duplicates from our collection. Each kit has a teacher's manual and suggested activities. Please call and reserve kit at least one week in advance.

V. THE KELLOGG MEMORIAL READING ROOM: has information on all kinds of local history research and genealogy. Free for students 18 and under. Books, maps, photographs, newspapers, street directories, manuscripts, advertising and other materials are available for study.

VI. CRAFT ACTIVITIES: Packets describe the following activities for the classroom or youth group:

1. TEXTILE ARTS: How to make a drop spindle, card wool, dye wood, make a loom, print cloth, embroider a sampler, quilt a pot holder.

2. KITCHEN CRAFTS: how to make a butter churn, make cottage cheese, churn butter, do colonial cooking, preserve food, dip candles.

VII. PUBLICATIONS ON LOCAL HISTORY: The Cortland County Historical Society issues a series of publications on local history including Stories of Cortland County by Bertha Blodgett, Growing Up in Cortland by Cora Edgcomb Higgins, Cortland County Chronicles and The Italians in Cortland.

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Arts in Education Resource Catalog: People, Places, and Materials, Homer Central School District, Homer, New York 13077.

Our Own Backyard, Team 7A, Homer Central School District, Homer, New York.

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